

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A variable width backhoe bucket having a width that is reversibly adjustable between a minimum value and a maximum value, comprising: a middle shell, flanking first and second side shells, and a constrained guidance system. The middle shell has a curved bottom, first and second opposite sides, and first and second opposite ends. Each side shell defines a bottom and a side panel such that the side shells are in substantially mirror symmetry with respect to each other. The constrained guidance system comprises a plurality of elongated male members, a plurality of complementary elongated female members, and a first and second oppositely opposed hydraulic cylinders each with one opposite end attached to the middle shell and the other end attached to one of the two side shells for moving the side shells in and out relative to the middle shell.